

February 21, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Prison phone rates, WC Docket No. 96-128- *Securus Petition for Declaratory Ruling*;
CC Docket No. 96-128- *Implementation of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and
Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 16, 2012, Ernesto Falcon, Harold Feld and Clarissa Ramon of Public Knowledge, Chance Williams of Free Press, Amalia Deloney of Center for Media Justice, Corrine Yu of the Leadership Conference, and Madura Wijewardena of National Urban League spoke with Angela Kronenberg of Commissioner Clyburn's office regarding prison phone rates and the Securus and Wright petitions.

The organizations stated their position on the Securus petition in which the FCC is being asked to allow prison phone providers to block calls from third party vendors. The organizations believe that denying the petition and opening up the market to competitors would alleviate some of the pressure on families of inmates but would be insufficient as a stand alone measure. Rather, the organizations recommended the Commission should take up the long-overdue task of protecting a vulnerable population from abusive practices of excessive phone rates.

The FCC and organizations agreed that the issue of prison phone rates should be addressed and discussed potential room for action in moving this issue forward.

Respectfully submitted,
/s Clarissa Ramon
Government Affairs Associate
PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE